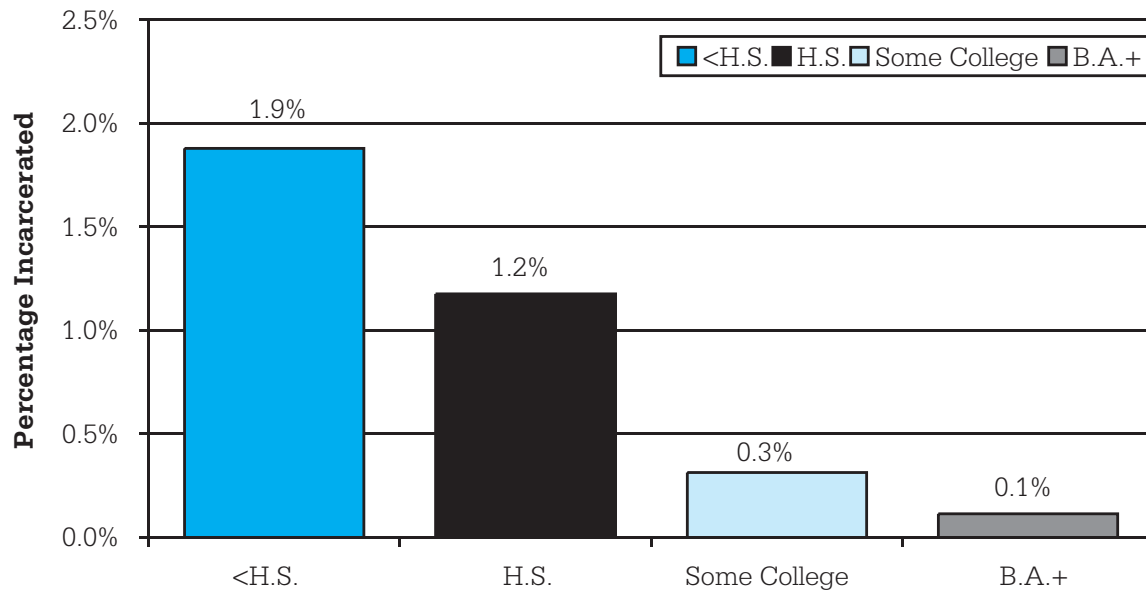


Incarceration Rates

Figure 11: Incarceration Rates by Education Level, 1997



Note: Including federal, state, and local prisons.

Source: Harlow, 2003.

The incarceration rate of adults with some college education is about one-quarter that for high school graduates.

- Almost 2 percent of adults who had not graduated from high school were incarcerated in 1997, as were 1.2 percent of those with a high school diploma, but only 0.3 percent of adults with some college experience and 0.1 percent of college graduates were incarcerated.
- Many of the personal characteristics that increase academic success also reduce the tendency to commit crimes, so years of schooling are clearly not the only factor in these differences.

Also important:

- It costs about \$26,000 a year to maintain a prisoner. (Harlow, 2003; calculations by the authors)
- Public four-year colleges spend about \$25,000 per student per year. Public two-year institutions spend about \$9,000 per year per full-time equivalent student. (NCES, 2002c, Table 344)